(*Chapter V.—Forests under Conservancy-administration when this Act comes into force.—Section 34. Chapter VI.—Of the Control over Forests and Lands not being the Property of Government.—Section 35.*)

CHAPTER V.

FORESTS UNDER CONSERVANCY-ADMINISTRATION WHEN THIS ACT COMES INTO FORCE.

Forests under conservancy-administration when this Act comes into force.

34. Within twelve months from the date on which this Act comes into force in the territories administered by any Local Government, such Government shall, after consideration of the rights of the Government and private persons in all forest-lands or waste-lands then under its executive control for purposes of forest-conservancy, determine which of such lands [if any] can according to justice, equity and good conscience, be classed as reserved forests or protected forests under this Act, and declare, by notification in the local official Gazette, any lands so classed to be reserved or protected forests, as the case may be:—

Provided that such declaration shall not affect any rights of the Government or private persons to or over any land or forest-produce in any such forest, which have, previous to the date of such declaration, been inquired into, settled and recorded in a manner which the Local Government thinks sufficient:

Provided also that if any such rights have not on such date been so inquired into, settled and recorded, the Local Government shall direct that the same shall be inquired into, settled and recorded in the manner provided by this Act for reserved or protected forests, as the case may be; and, until such inquiry, settlement and record have been completed, no such declaration shall abridge or affect such rights.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE CONTROL OVER FORESTS AND LANDS NOT BEING THE PROPERTY OF GOVERNMENT.

Protection of forests for

35. The Local Government may from time to time,

time, by notification in the local official Gazette, regulate or prohibit in any forest or waste-land— special purposes.

(*a*) the breaking up or clearing of land for cultivation;

(*b*) the pasturing of cattle;

(*c*) the firing or clearing of the vegetation;

when such regulation or prohibition appears necessary for any of the following purposes:—

first, for protection against storms, winds, rolling stones, floods and avalanches;

second, for the preservation of the soil on the ridges and slopes and in the valleys of hilly tracts, the prevention of landslips and of the formation of ravines and torrents, and the protection of land against erosion, or the deposit thereon of sand, stones or gravel;

third, for the maintenance of a water-supply in springs, rivers and tanks;

fourth, for the protection of roads, bridges, railways and other lines of communication;

fifth, for the preservation of the public health;

and may alter or cancel such notification.

The Local Government may, for any such purpose, construct at its own expense, in or upon any forest or waste-land, such work as it thinks fit:

Provided that no such notification shall be made or work begun until after the issue of a notice to the owner of such forest or land, calling on him to show cause, within a reasonable period to be specified in such notice, why such notification should not be made or work constructed, and until his objections (if any) and any evidence he may produce in support of the same have been heard by an officer duly appointed in

that

that behalf and have been considered by the Local Government.

Power to assume management of forests.

36. In case of neglect of, or wilful disobedience to, any regulation or prohibition under section 35, or if the purposes of any work to be constructed under that section so require, the Local Government may, after notice in writing to the owner of such forest or land and after considering his objections (if any), place the same under the control of a Forest-officer, and may declare that all or any of the provisions of this Act relating to reserved forests shall apply to such forest or land.

The net profits (if any) arising from the management of such forest or land shall be paid to the said proprietor.

Expropriation of forests in certain cases.

37. In any case under this Chapter in which the Local Government considers that, in lieu of placing the forest or land under the control of a Forest-officer, the same should be acquired for public purposes, the Local Government may proceed to acquire it in the manner prescribed by the Land Acquisition Act, 1870[1]. 1 of 1870

The owner of any forest or land comprised in any notification under section 35 may, at any time not less than three or more than twelve years from the date thereof, require that such forest or land shall be acquired for public purposes, and the Local Government shall acquire such forest or land accordingly.

Protection of forests at request of owners.

38. The owner of any land or, if there be more than one owner thereof, the owners of shares therein amounting in the aggregate to at least two-thirds thereof may, with a view to the formation or conservation of forests thereon, represent in writing to the Collector or Deputy Commissioner their desire—

(*a*) that such land be managed on their behalf by the

[1] *Read now* the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1 of 1894), General Acts, Vol. VI.

the Forest-officer as a reserved or a protected forest on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon; or

(*b*) that all or any of the provisions of this Act be applied to such land.

In either case, the Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, apply to such land such provisions of this Act as it thinks suitable to the circumstances thereof and as may be desired by the applicants.

Any such notification may be altered or cancelled by a like notification.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE DUTY ON TIMBER AND OTHER FOREST-PRODUCE.[1]

Power to impose duty on timber and other forest-produce.

39. The Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, may levy a duty in such manner, at such places and at such rates as it may from time to time prescribe by notification in the local official Gazette on all timber [[2]or other forest-produce]—

(*a*) which is produced in British India, and in respect of which the Government has any right;

(*b*) which is brought from any place beyond the frontier of British India.

Power to fix value for *ad valorem* duty.

In every case in which such duty is directed to be levied *ad valorem*, the Local Government may, with the like sanction, from time to time fix, by like notification, the value on which such duty shall be assessed.

All duties on timber [[2]or other forest-produce], which, at the time when this Act comes into force in any

[1] This heading was substituted for the original heading by the Forest Act, 1890 (V of 1890), s. 8 (*1*). General Acts, Vol. V.

[2] These words were inserted by Act V of 1890, s. 8 (*2*).